Sea-Piracy by Pakistan

*47. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing sea-piracy by the Pakistanis near Gujarat Coast, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 330 fishermen were hijacked during the last three years by the Pakistanis;

(c) what action is contemplated by Government to curb this Pakistani activity and protect our fishermen; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that many of the hijacked Indian fishermen are presently illegally detained in Pakistan jails; if so, what action is proposed to be taken to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) There has indeed been an increase in apprehension of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistan near the Gujarat Coast. While prior to January, 1987, such apprehensions were negligible, since then as many as 38 Indian fishing vessels alongwith 321 fishermen have been apprehended.

(c) Government are intensifying patrolling off the Gujarat Coast and taking steps to enter into negotiations with the Government of Pakistan for the delineation of the Indo-Pakistan maritime boundary.

(d) Government have from time to time been taking up the release of Indian fishermen with the Government of Pakistan. To date 11 boats and 119 fishermen have been released by Pakistan. During the Indo-Pakistan bilateral talks held on this issue on 10—11 February 1988, it was agreed that all fishing vessels and crewy captured by both countries since 1-10-1986 would be released within about 60 days.

Working conditions of Air Force Canteen Employees

*48. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the decisions taken at the meeting of the review committee held on the 23rd December, 1986 to improve the working conditions of Air Force canteen employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that canteen employees are giving only 90 per cent of the basic pay admissible to the Central Government employees in the corresponding scales as recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission and also only 90 per cent of CCA and HRA; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the Air Force canteen employees are not paid the pay as admissible to Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A statement indicating the decisions taken in this meeting is placed on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Air Force Canteen employees are not Central Government employees. Hence, they are not entitled to the pay and allowances admissible to Central Government employees.

Statement

(a) *Revision of Pay and Allowances:* All permanent canteen employees will be given 90 per cent of the basic

pay admissible to the Central Government employees in the corresponding scales as recommended by the IVth Pay Commission. They will also be paid 90 per cent of CCA and HRA as approved by the Central Govt. for its employees for respective revised scales. It was further decided that in future 90 per cent of the DA announced by the Government for its employees will be payable to the permanent employees of the Canteen also. However, it was agreed that Interim Relief, if announced by the Government at any time, will not be applicable to the Canteen employees.

(b) *Payment of Bonus*: Permanent Canteen employees will be eligible for the same bonus as announced for Central Government employees from time to time.

(c) *Special Allowances*: Existing special allowances for Store-keeper (hereafter Stores Supervisor), Asstt. Store-keeper, Cashier, IC Groceries and Sales persons will continue to be paid to the employees employed on such duties.

(d) *Working Hours*: The Canteen employees will work 48-54 hours per week, if so required. Overtime allowance will be applicable only after these laid down hours are exceeded.

(e) *Re-Organisation of the Canteen*: The following decisions in this regard were taken:—

(i) *Higher Scale for Accountant*: Accountant will be placed in the new pay scale of Rs. 1260—36—1620—EB—45—2070/-. He will draw HRA, CCA and DA as per this scale at rates applicable to all other permanent employees.

(ii) *New Post of Stores Supervisor*: A new post of "Stores Supervisor" will be created in place of the existing post of "Sr. Store keeper". Store Supervisor will draw pay & allowances in the same scale as applicable to the Accountant.

(iii) *In-Charge Grocery*: The duties of IC Grocery, as far as possible will be entrusted to the Salesman in UDC grade. However, due to administrative reasons the same may be entrusted to a salesman in LDC grade also subject to the condition that the sales persons working under him are not senior to him.

(f) *Performance Reports*: It was decided that the system of performance reports will be introduced for the permanent Canteen employees. These will have bearing on future promotions of the employees. The details regarding raising of such reports will be issued separately.

(g) *Miscellaneous*: Statutory benefits like Provident Fund and Gratuity will continue to be provided as per the Admin Instruction 2/81. However, the benefit/incentives, other than the statutory ones and those listed above, that are being given (e.g. distribution of sweets etc.) or may be given in future will not form a part of the terms and conditions of service of the employees and may be continued or discontinued at the discretion of the Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, New Delhi.

(h) *Review of Terms and Conditions*: It was agreed that Pay & Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of permanent employees of AF Canteen, Race Course, will be reviewed after ten years from the date of implementation of revised pay and allowances as decided in this meeting.

(j) *Half-Day Earned Leave*: With effect from 01 Jan. 87 the practice of half day earned leave will cease. This privilege can be availed only in case of casual leave.

(k) All decisions pertaining to the creation of the new post of Stores

Supervisor, new scale of pay, revision of scales of bonus and review of terms and conditions as stated above will come into force w.e.f. 01 Dec. 86 provided at least 90 per cent of the permanent employees as on date sign their acceptance by 31 Dec., 86. Permanent Canteen employees who do not accept these conditions will continue to be in the existing scales and draw allowances as heretofore.

Indo-Sri Lanka "Mutual Assistance Treaty"

*49. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the signing of a "Mutual Assistance Treaty" was contemplated between the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India during the former's State visit to this country from January 25 to 28 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not signing such a treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Sri Lanka had handed over on January 19, 1988, the draft of a proposed treaty of friendship. During President Jayewardene's visit to India the Sri Lankan side referred to this draft and suggested that it could be discussed later after the Indian side has had time to examine it.

Defence build up by Pak along Wagah Khalra-Khemkaran Border

*50. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is building trenches and bunkers along the Wagah-Khalra-Khemkaran main axis in its border areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's assessment of the situation and the reasons behind the above-mentioned build-up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Government are aware that Pakistan has a ditch-cum-bund system of obstacles as part of its defence strategy since the 1965 war, in areas opposite southern J&K, Punjab and northern Rajasthan.

(b) Government keep a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Exercises conducted by Pakistan

*51. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times of 19th December, 1987 under the caption "Pak forces hold massive exercises";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such exercises have been conducted near the Indian border; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to such reports?